

## United States History Survey 122 Syllabus

Dr. T. McCord, Fall 2017, Section 001  
TR 9:00-10:15 am. David King Hall 2053

### CLASSROOM TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

TEXTS: Tindall and Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, Vol. 2, 10<sup>th</sup> brief ed.

Livesay, *Andrew Carnegie and the Rise of Big Business*

Youngs, *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Personal and Public Life*

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Tue.</u>	<u>General Topic</u>	<u>Tindall Chaps.</u>
Aug.	29	Introduction, New South and West	18
Sep.	5	Historiography; Big Business,	17
	12	Reaction to Big Business and state of Labor (9/15 last add; last drop w/o penalty)	17
	19	<b>Livesay Quiz.</b> Immigration	19
	26	Urban Growth and Politics. (9/29 last drop 2/3 penalty)	19
Oct.	3	Agrarian Revolt. <b>Exam 1 (17-19)</b>	19
	12	<b>No class Tue.</b> American society 1890s-1900	19
	17	National Expansion. Historiography <b>Essay Due</b> 19 <sup>th</sup>	20
	24	Progressive Era	21
	31	World War I. <b>No class</b> 11/2.	22
Nov.	7	World War I and 1920s.	23-24
	14	1920s. <b>Exam #2 (19-24)</b>	24
	21	Great Depression. Thanksgiving 22-26.	25
	28	New Deal and World War II. <b>Youngs Quiz</b>	25-26
Dec.	5	Early Cold War through Civil Rights	27-29
	14	<b>Final Exam 7:30 am</b>	

### NATURE OF THE COURSE

This survey in modern American history is designed to give the student a broad picture of the growth and development of the United States after Reconstruction, focusing on the transition from a rural agricultural nation to an urban industrial one. Surmounting the difficulties of this transition was a great challenge to the American people and their leaders throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Rapid changes in technology, urban growth and immigration eventually led to a new definition of government responsibility, and also to new public attitudes. Moreover, the urban challenge has persisted, along with its social, political and economic implications, and has been manifested by cycles of reform and reaction. An important theme is the constant struggle with the ideal of pluralism. Another central issue during these years is America's rise to world leadership.

Because this is a general education course, after completion, a student is expected to demonstrate an understanding of the following learning outcomes: "key concepts, terminology, principles or theories within the field"; "methodological approaches appropriate to the field"; "how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by

contextual factors appropriate to the field”; and applying the above “concepts, terminology, principles, or theories to major contemporary issues or everyday life.”

## COURSE GOALS

The main goals are to present United States history as an unfolding story of the American people and to introduce students to history as an academic discipline. As a story, one hopes to generate curiosity about the past, which will stimulate students to read historical literature throughout their lifetimes. As a discipline, the course will touch upon historiography, especially upon the interpretation of history and the array of factors that influence historians. Another goal is to provide selected primary sources for analysis, discussion and interpretation. Finally, students are reminded that the skills and goals of historians can be applied to other walks of life, such as business, teaching, the law, and a host of government-related jobs.

## METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

To a great extent this is a lecture course that will be supplemented with films and with discussion of both the films and the assigned readings. The student must develop a style for taking notes and students are encouraged to ask pertinent questions and to make relevant comments on any material then before the class.

## EXAMINATIONS

The student will be responsible for all material covered in lectures, texts, and class discussions. There are three examinations and three quizzes listed in the syllabus. There will be no make-up examinations without a medical doctor’s written excuse, or, without being cleared with the professor ahead of time.

## ATTENDANCE

Full attendance is expected and is necessary because lectures will cover points that are not in the readings, nor do the themes exactly follow the textbook chronology. It will be considered in the final grade. According to the university catalogue, “students are expected to attend the class periods of the course for which they register. In-class participation is important to the individual student and to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of non-participation.”

## ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

For every three unexcused absences, there will be a full grade drop in your participation grade. Also, any combination of being tardy or leaving class early five times without an adequate reason will result in a full grade drop. An excused absence must be supported with a written note from a medical doctor, or, through consultation with the professor.

## HONOR CODE

This code applies to all examinations and written work. This means that you may neither give nor receive any information during an examination. It also means that you may not use any material, written or oral, during an exam. Guidelines for assigned papers will be discussed as the projects arise, but at all times the student must guard against plagiarism.

## COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

In this survey class, computer skills are not required to complete the work; however, it is helpful to use e-mail, and it is virtually essential to know word processing. The university now requires that all e-mail sent to faculty must be from a **GMU ACCOUNT**.

## CELL PHONES, ETC.

Cell phones, earphones, cameras, radios, or any communication devices are not to be used in class at any time! Please turn off your cell phones before the start of class. Laptop computers may be used in the front rows for taking notes, but not for exams or anything else; screens will be inspected at random.

## GRADING

Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade; the three quizzes are worth 20% combined; and participation is worth 20%.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

If anyone has a physical condition that requires a special seating location, please see me after class.

## OFFICE HOURS, E-MAIL ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBERS

My office is in Robinson B 226C, second floor  
Office hours: Tuesday 2:15-2:45 pm; Wednesday 12:30-1:15; and by appointment  
Telephone: department 703.993.1249; home 703.988-9535;  
E-mail: [tmccord@gmu.edu](mailto:tmccord@gmu.edu)

